

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFAE

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAREUR

USDELMC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, SP

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SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO--SPANISH WAR COLLEGE (CESEDEN) STUDY

1. WHILE WE ARE NOT YET PRIVY TO ANY OF THE DETAILS CONTAINED
IN THE SPANISH WAR COLLEGE (CESEDEN) STUDY OF NATO WHICH
CONCLUDED JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, WE HAVE IT FROM SEVERAL
ENTIRELY RELIABLE SOURCES DIRECTLY INVOLVED THAT THE REPORT
PREPARED FOR THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF REACHES, ON BALANCE, A POS-

ITIVE CONCLUSION WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE. AS ALL ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THIS WAS BY NO MEANS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND SPEAKS TO THE VALUE OF THE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS MADE TO PROVIDE THE WAR COLLEGE WITH TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES AND EXHAUSTIVE INFORMATION ON THE ALLIANCE. OUR THANKS TO ALL CONCERNED.

2. THE RECIPIENT OF THE STUDY REPORT IS THE CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, LT. GEN. FERNANDEZ VALLESPIN. WHAT USE WILL BE MADE OF IT RESTS LARGELY WITH HIM.

3. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER GIVE SOME FLAVOR OF THE REPORT:

(A) AN AIRFORCE BRIGADIER GENERAL: THE CONCLUSION IS POSITIVE. WE ARE PART OF THE WEST, SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE DENIED. AS WE WERE TOLD IN WASHINGTON, EVEN OUR PRESENT ROLE MAKES US A TARGET OF THE WARSAW PACT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MAY NEED TO BARGAIN FOR BENEFITS IN DISCUSSING MEMBERSHIP. THE GIBRALTAR PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH.

(B) A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL: THE REPORT IS EXHAUSTIVE ON THE PROS AND CONS; IT MAY BE REGARDED AS THE FIRST SUCH THOROUGH STUDY OF THE ISSUE MADE IN SPAIN. ON BALANCE, IT IS POSITIVE. NATO TODAY IS CERTAINLY LESS VIGOROUS THAN IT ONCE WAS AND THE FINAL SPANISH DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME THE DECISION IS MADE. AGAIN GIBRALTAR WAS MENTIONED AS A HURDLE TO BE CROSSED, ALTHOUGH OUR INTERLOCUTOR AGREED THAT RATHER THAN BEING A PREREQUISITE FOR MEMBERSHIP, A SOLUTION PROBLEM MIGHT BE IN PART THROUGH

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MEMBERSHIP.

(C) A COMMERCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO JOIN NATO IS NOT AN ECONOMIC ONE; NO STRONG CASE IS TO BE MADE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON PURELY ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

4. FERNANDEZ VALLESPIN HIMSELF HAS COMMENTED TO DATT THAT THE QUESTION OF ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP IS FOR SPAIN NEITHER ECONOMIC NOR MILITARY, BUT POLITICAL. STABLER

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